

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MEDICAL SCHOOL

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GENETICS
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Josh:

This portion of the letter I did not wish, for obvious reasons, to dictate to my secretary. I am not really looking for a job, am in general satisfied with my present situation, and have been uninterested in several more or less concrete opportunities that have lately come up. However, like anyone else, I am always at least latently interested in an opportunity where my work can proceed more effectively. Your letter has had the effect of causing me to examine, where I had tended to ignore or deny, the deficiencies in my present setup.

Clinically, there is probably no better place in the country for child psychiatry than Hawthorn Center. Rabinovitch is an outstanding man, a wonderful teacher, and has developed an excellent organization. Moreover, I feel a very strong personal loyalty to him, and this, more than anything else, deters me from considering leaving here. But the opportunities for research, at least the kinds of research in which I am most capable, are limited, both by physical and geographical factors and by the overall orientation of the institution. Much of this difficulty can be improved, but the thing that is, at present, most discouraging is that the State does not appear to be inclined toward any capital outlay in the near future, and, while we can get grants, we simply do not have the physical space to expand our research facilities.

So I am potentially interested in the Stanford development. At least I would like to know more about it.

Attached is an outline summary of my training and experience. To clarify a little my own particular qualifications and usefulness for a department of psychiatry, it should be stated that I am probably not an administrator and most definitely not a politician. If I have any real forte, it is probably an ability to relate with, interview, and diagnose disturbed children; plus a more-than-passing awareness of the methods and trends in the fields of neurophysiology and biochemistry. I am not especially articulate, contribute little in large group situations, and express things best in writing. I always get along well personally with associates and subordinates, but have enough difficulty in handling my feelings toward my superiors that I tend to avoid them (except Rabinovitch). I always look both ways before crossing the street, and am obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and irreverent.

To leave Hawthorne would certainly not be very possible for at least a year. I am well into the middle of a project on tryptophane metabolism in schizophrenic children, and having spent most of the past two years in doing the spadework, am just beginning to reap the data. Nothing positive may come of it, but it's my project and I want to be around for the fun. We just started last week on our first family; I'm more interested in possible genetic findings than actual aberrations in the disease itself.

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I haven't published a thing since entering psychiatry 5 years ago, but have two papers partially completed, one on the use of humor in child psychiatry (a widely used and vastly misunderstood mechanism) and another on the state hospital milieu in treatment of children. For the latter study I have been seeing kids in a state hospital about three days a month for two years. I am also heading a drug-evaluation study on disturbed children, and a psychiatric study of the families of schizophrenic children. However, what I am most interested in doing, and which is not very feasible in this setting is a project which I expressed somewhat facetiously to you in the previous letter: the inheritance of personality. I see this as a long-range study, starting with newborns, measuring multiple factors of physical, chemical, psychological, and physiological variation (something on the order of Roger Williams' notion of biochemical individuality) and then following these factors as they interact with environment in the growing and developing child. Julius Richmond at Syracuse has some such a study going, and I hope to visit him soon to see what he's doing. The pediatrics department at Denver has some long-term data on children, but I gather that they have limited their measurements mainly to physical and chemical factors, and have given little attention to psychological and cultural aspects.

Let me know if anything turns up. It is perhaps superfluous to advise you that the information contained herein is strictly confidential, and is known only to you and my analyst. How much do you charge per hour?

Hay